

OCCURRENCE OF *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM PARVUM* INFECTION IN A PIG FARM

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The occurrence of *Cryptosporidium parvum* infection was observed in a pig farm managed intensively in the North-Western province. Fifty-four, 55 and 65 pigs were sampled in May, June and July, respectively. As determined by the salt floatation test and by staining with the modified Ziehl-Neelsen technique, 15.0%, 14.5% and 34.0% of the examined animals during May, June and July, respectively, were found to be excreting oocysts which were typical of *Cryptosporidium* species. The mean \pm SD *Cryptosporidium* oocysts excretion for all animals in May, June and July were found to be 75 \pm 227, 116 \pm 550 and 104 \pm 190, respectively. *Cryptosporidium* oocysts determined on each sampling day were pooled separately into 3 groups and the DNA extracted from pooled *Cryptosporidium* oocysts were amplified by PCR using a set of primers (5'GATTGGTGCTAAATTCTGGG3' and 5'GTCTGCAAATACGATCTGG3') designed from the β -tubulin gene of *C. parvum* with a view of identifying the species. The expected band size of 538 bp in the PCR product appeared on agarose gel confirming the presence of *C. parvum* in these pigs. Genotypic evaluation suggested that the *C. parvum* isolates obtained represented the 'zoonotic bovine genotype' and also confirmed its cross transmission capability in infecting other domestic animals and humans.